

Message Text

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63

ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-05 /068 R

DRAFTED BY EA/K:EHKELLY:LM
APPROVED BY EA/K:DAO'DONOHUE
L/EA:CEROH (DRAFT)
IO/UNP:JWKIMBALL (DRAFT)
DOD/ISA:MIABRAMOWITZ (DRAFT)
EA/J:DGBROWN (DRAFT)
EA/PRCM:OVARMSTRONG (DRAFT)
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R 242148Z DEC 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
COMUSJAPAN

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E.O. 11652:N/A, DECONTROL UPON RECEIPT
TAGS: PFOR, MORG, PORT, US, KS, CH
SUBJECT: RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN UNC AND US TROOPS IN KOREA

CINCPAC FOR POLAD
REF: A. TOKYO 16365; B. PEKING 2291

IN ADDITION TO ANSWERS SENT SEPTTEL TO QUESTIONS IN MOFA
NOTE, FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF BACKGROUND PAPER ON UNITED
NATIONS COMMAND PREPARED BY DEPARTMENT FOR USE OF USUN.
ADDRESSEES MAY DRAW UPON PAPER IN DISCUSSIONS WITH HOST
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GOVERNMENT; TOKYO MAY PROVIDE FONOFF WITH COPY OF PAPER.

QUOTE. (TITLE) THE UNITED NATIONS COMMAND

BACKGROUND

THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL IN ITS RESOLUTION OF JULY 7, 1950 RECOMMENDED THAT ALL MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS PROVIDING MILITARY FORCES TO REPEL THE ARMED ATTACK AGAINST THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA MAKE THESE FORCES AVAILABLE TO A UNIFIED COMMAND UNDER THE UNITED STATES. IT REQUESTED THE UNITED STATES TO DESIGNATE THE COMMANDER OF SUCH FORCES AND AUTHORIZED THE UNIFIED COMMAND TO USE THE UN FLAG. THE UNITED STATES SUBSEQUENTLY INFORMED THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL IT WOULD ACCEPT THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE UNIFIED COMMAND AND SOME TIME LATER FORMED THE UNITED

NATIONS COMMAND TO EXERCISE ITS RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION.

ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTIONS

THE UNITED NATIONS COMMAND (UNC) IS A COMMAND ELEMENT STAFFED BY MEMBERS OF THE US ARMED FORCES AND REPORTS TO THE U.S. JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF. A MILITARY LIAISON GROUP MADE UP OF REPRESENTATIVES OF SOME OF THE SIXTEEN NATIONS WHICH CONTRIBUTED TROOPS DURING THE KOREAN WAR AND A COMBINED U.S.-ROK OPERATIONAL PLANNING STAFF, WHICH WAS FORMED IN 1968, ARE ATTACHED TO THE COMMAND, BUT NEITHER OF THESE GROUPS EXERCISES ANY COMMAND OR CONTROL FUNCTIONS OVER U.S. OR OTHER FORCES.

U.S. FORCES IN KOREA ARE NOT UNDER THE OPERATIONAL CONTROL OF THE UN COMMAND. THEY ARE IN KOREA PURSUANT TO THE U.S.-ROK MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY OF 1954 AND THE STATUS OF FORCES AGREEMENT OF 1966. HOWEVER, THE SAME OFFICER WHO IS COMMANDER IN CHIEF UNITED NATIONS COMMAND (CINCUNC) IS ALSO COMMANDER UNITED STATES FORCES KOREA AND COMMANDING GENERAL EIGHTH UNITED STATES ARMY.

THIRD COUNTRY FORCES

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FIFTEEN NATIONS BESIDES THE U.S. SENT FORCES TO KOREA DURING THE KOREAN WAR. THREE OF THESE STILL RETAIN TOKEN FORCES IN KOREA UNDER THE OPERATIONAL CONTROL OF THE UN COMMAND.

THAILAND ALSO MAINTAINS A DETACHMENT IN TOKYO UNDER THE OPERATIONAL COMMAND OF THE UN COMMAND REAR. (UNTIL 1957,

THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE UN COMMAND WAS IN TOKYO. WHEN IT MOVED TO SEOUL, A SMALL HEADQUARTERS REMAINED IN TOKYO.)

THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH CONTRIBUTED FORCES TO THE UN COMMAND SENT LIAISON OFFICERS WHICH WERE ATTACHED TO THE COMMAND TO OVERSEE THE USE OF THEIR NATIONAL FORCES BUT THEY WERE NOT PART OF THE FORMAL COMMAND STRUCTURE. THIS LIAISON GROUP STILL EXISTS BUT HAS NO OPERATIONAL FUNCTION. ITS MEMBERS ARE AUSTRALIA, CANADA, ETHIOPIA, FRANCE, NEW ZEALAND, PHILIPPINES, THAILAND, TURKEY AND UNITED KINGDOM. IN MOST CASES, THESE LIAISON OFFICERS ARE ALSO THE MILITARY ATTACHE AT THE EMBASSIES OF THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES. FRANCE AND NEW ZEALAND ARE REPRESENTED ON THE LIAISON GROUP AT THE TOKYO HEADQUARTERS.

UN OPERATIONAL CONTROL OF THE ROK ARMED FORCES

THE MAJOR FORCES UNDER THE OPERATIONAL CONTROL OF THE UN COMMAND ARE THE BULK OF THE 600,000 MAN ARMED FORCES OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA.

THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT ESTABLISHED THE MILITARY ARMISTICE COMMISSION (MAC) AND THE NEUTRAL NATIONS SUPERVISORY COMMISSION (NNSC) TO IMPLEMENT THE AGREEMENT. THE ARMISTICE STIPULATES THAT RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMPLIANCE WITH AND ENFORCEMENT OF THE TERMS AND PROVISIONS OF THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT IS THAT OF THE SIGNATORIES AND THEIR SUCCESSORS IN COMMAND. CINCUNC THUS HAS HAD THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR POLICING AS WELL AS DEFENDING THE DEMILITARIZED ZONE SEPARATING THE OPPOSING FORCES. THE MILITARY ARMISTICE COMMISSION IS COMPOSED OF TEN MEMBERS: FIVE APPOINTED BY THE UNC AND FIVE BY THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COMMUNIST SIDE. THE SENIOR MEMBER OF THE UN SIDE HAS ALWAYS BEEN AN AMERICAN, ALTHOUGH THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT DOES NOT STIPULATE THIS. OF THE OTHER FOUR MEMBERS, THE PRACTICE HAS BEEN TO APPOINT TWO ROK GENERAL OFFICERS, ONE BRITISH GENERAL OFFICER TO REPRESENT THE COMMONWEALTH MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY LIAISON GROUP, AND TO ROTATE THE FIFTH MEMBERSHIP AMONG THE NON-COMMONWEALTH MEMBERS OF THE LIAISON GROUP. CINCUNC WAS ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR APPOINTING TWO OF THE MEMBERS OF THE NEUTRAL NATIONS SUPERVISORY COMMISSION (SWITZERLAND AND SWEDEN) WHILE THE COMMUNIST SIDE APPOINTED THE OTHER TWO (CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND POLAND). THE NNSC WAS TO MONITOR THE LEVELS OF TROOPS AND MILITARY EQUIPMENT IN KOREA BUT IT WAS NEVER ABLE TO FUNCTION EFFECTIVELY BECAUSE OF NORTH KOREAN OBSTRUCTION. BOTH ELEMENTS OF THE NNSC MAINTAIN CAMPS

IN THE DEMILITARIZED ZONE ADJOINING THE JOINT SECURITY

AREA AT PANMUNJOM. END QUOTE. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PAPERS, RESOLUTIONS, FORCE & TROOP LEVELS, BRIEFING MATERIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE281355
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EH KELLY:LM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740374-0694
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741211/aaaaajff.tel
Line Count: 172
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 74 TOKYO 16365, 74 PEKING 2291
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUL 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <25 MAR 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN UNC AND US TROOPS IN KOREA CINCPAC FOR POLAD
TAGS: PFOR, MORG, US, KS, CH, UNC, UNSC
To: PEKING TOKYO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005